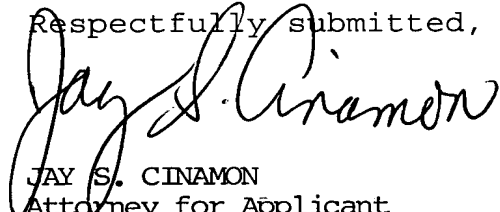


practice prior to the filing date of Cheng (May 18, 2001). Consequently, it is believed that Cheng may not be considered prior art against the present patent application.

Applicant has studied the additional references made of record by the Examiner and believes all the claims in the present patent application to be patentable over these references, whether taken individually or in any combination.

Applicant believes the remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the present application are in order for allowance. Notice to this effect is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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